

Appn. No. 09/606,878
Amendment dated September 5, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 6, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-18, 20-24 and 40-43 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 12-16, 24 and 40 have been allowed, claims 8-11, 17, 18 and 20-22 have been objected to only as being dependent upon rejected claims, and claims 5-7, 23, 41 and 42 have been rejected. Claims 40 and 41 have been cancelled, claims 1, 5-7, 12, 16-18, 20-24 and 40 have been amended, and dependent claim 43 has been added. Claim 1 is independent.

The Examiner is thanked for the allowance of claims 1, 12-16, 24 and 40, and the indicated allowability of claims 8-11, 17, 18 and 20-22. The allowed claims have been maintained unchanged in substance, although minor changes to improve the readability and form of claims 1, 12, 16-18, 20-22, 24 and 40 have been made¹, and the claims that were objected to are now believed to be allowable because the rejections of their predecessor claims have been overcome, as discussed below. None of the changes made herein are believed to introduce new matter, or to raise further issues for consideration.

Although the Office Action objected to claims 17 and 18 as being dependent upon rejected claims (and so were objected to, rather than allowed), that is not correct. Claims 17 and 18 both depend upon allowed claim 1. Accordingly, allowance of claims 17 and 18 is respectfully requested.

¹ For example, the term --substance-- is now used throughout the claims (previously, both "substance" and "substances" were used). Consistent with the rejection of claim 7, the term "removed" has been changed to --eliminated--. Claim 16 has been amended to conform with the usage of volume percentage in preceding claim 9. Claim 20 now consistently uses the term --ratio--. The recitation of 25°C in claims 21 and 22 has been set out in the same manner as in claim 1. Claims 1 and 20 have been revised to use the term --machine working-- in place of "machine works".

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**The Rejection Under
35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2**

Claims 5-7 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of Applicants' invention. In particular, it was noted that these claims all depend upon cancelled claim 4. Claim 6 was said to use an unclear term "original liquid", and claim 7 was noted as having a term lacking antecedent basis.

The Examiner is thanked for calling attention to these points. Claims 5-7 and 23 have been revised to depend from claim 1. Claims 6 and 7 also have been amended to attend to the points noted by the Examiner.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

**The Rejection Under
35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 41 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Laid-Open Utility Model Application No. 63-11563 to Kobayashi in view of Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 04-41656 to Fukai et al.

In view of the cancellation of claims 41 and 42, this rejection is now entirely moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is warranted.

CONCLUSION

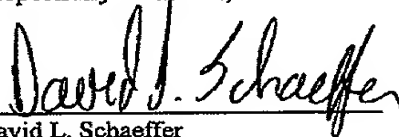
Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding rejections and objections have been addressed and are now either overcome or moot. Applicant further submits that all claims

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pending in this application are patentable over the prior art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of those rejections and objections is respectfully requested.

Lastly, no fee is believed to be due in connection with the claims presented in this Amendment, or otherwise. If, however, the Commissioner deems any such fee to be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge that fee to deposit account no. 19-4709.

Respectfully submitted,



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